

## Cemetery Saved;

## Descendants Still Missing

One of the most widely-commented-on articles ever published in DD was the Jan. 1995 lead article about the 1875 murders of Solomon Dunham (1825-1875)(7)(John 1, Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Daniel 4, Jonathan 5, Harlock 6) & his son-in-law, James Busick, the material for which came from Bob A. Dunham, Madison, WI.

Now Susan Bidwell-Williams, Gilbert, AZ, is searching for contemporary members of this branch of the Dunham family, particularly those of Solomon's daughter, Sarah. Susan also has some additional details of the March 18, 1875 tragedy that took place near Voca, TX. She relates that when the band of Indians attacked Solomon Dunham & James Busick, James was killed first, but Solomon initially escaped, until he was unfortunately swept off his horse by a tree limb-

at which point he was also killed. The 2 bodies were found by local school children. (What a shock for those children!) The 2 men were buried in Spiller's cemetery.

At this point the suddenly-widowed Sarah Dunham Busick had 3 children: 1/ George Arthur (1870-1912)(m. 1899 Vashta Freeman); 2/ Eugenia Della (1871-1893); & 3/ Gertie Olive (1875-1943), who married Athan Keran in 1896 in Hume, IL.

It is not surprising that Sarah left Texas shortly thereafter, & she made her home with a brother in Iowa until 1880, when she married again, to John Rothbone. The Rothbones lived in various places in Illinois & had 6 more children, only one of whom lived to grow up: Ora Leopold (b. 1889). He married twice, 1st in 1916 to Ruth Myer, & 2nd to Stella Cone. in 1944, Clinton, MI.

The Michigan residence must have lasted a while, as Sarah Dunham Busick Rothbone died in Dundee, MI on Jan. 20, 1927. Ora Leopold Rothbone wrote a family narrative called "The Rothbone Manuscript," which Susan Williams owns.

In attempting to trace members of this family, Susan got in contact with an historian in Voca, TX, who told her that Spiller's graveyard was now on private property & in very poor repair. The current owner of the land had refused to allow a local historical group to enter, repair & record the site, & the group was frustrated, not knowing what they could do about it. Susan didn't think that this could be legal & suggested that they contact state & county authorities to get more information. It turned out that Susan was RIGHT. Now the historical society group has access to the graveyard & can begin to restore it. This, Susan says, will assure that if she can ever find descendants of Solomon Dunham (Busick or Rothbone), they will be able to find the graveyard where their ancestors are buried.

However, she needs help in finding those people. To recap:

George Arthur Busick (b. 1870) d. 1912 in Breedlands, IL.

Mrs. Athan (Gertie Olive Busick) Keran (b. 1878) d. 1943 Brittan, MI (This may be BRITTON in Lenawee County, MI)

Ora Leopold Rothbone (b. 1889) d. after 1945.

SOME descendant probably lived in or near Dundee, Monroe County, MI, where Sarah Rothbone died in 1927.



**Hon. Josiah Dunham (1775-1857)**

HON. JOSIAH DUNHAM  
1775-1857

P. C. Alger, Derry, NH, alerts us to the material on the Hon. Josiah Dunham (1775-1857), who was the son of Capt. Jesse Dunham (5)(John 1, Joseph 2, Benijah 3, Benijah 4). Jesse Dunham died when Josiah was 7 year old, & his guardian apprenticed the lad to a Mr. Richardson, who was a rope maker in Boston, MA.

*The History of South Boston* (P. C.'s source) says that Josiah served in the War of 1812 in Capt. E. Dyer's company of artillery at Boston in Sept/Oct 1814. Later Josiah became a prominent man in the area. He was largely interested in real estate & built & owned all the houses on Gold & 5th Sts. & many on 4th & B Sts. He was a member of the Boston Council in 1833 & on the Board of Aldermen 1834-36. While an alderman he had the streets in his district properly graded & had trees planted on each side. The Board presented him with a solid silver water pitcher & silver cups, all hand-made & engraved with the date '1835.' (Should you happen to see anything like that at an antiques market, grab it! Tell them that, by virtue of being a Dunham, you have a prior claim on it!)

A noted politician & president of the old Franklin Savings Bank in Boston, he had diverse interests, demonstrated by the fact that he was also proprietor of an iron foundry, a prominent dry goods store, & a company known as the Boston Wharf Co.

Josiah Dunham's considerable fortune was wiped out in the Panic of 1837, but he did not give up, continued the manufacture of cordage, & regained his wealth by 1853.

He was married in 1802 to Mary Potter, & in 1813 after her death, to Mary Ann Ellms. His children were: 1/ Josiah, Jr. (b. 1804, Boston, & m. 1829 Sarah Smith); 2/ Sarah Harrison (b. 1814); 3/ Elizabeth (b. 1815); 4/ Thomas (b. 1817); & an adopted son, Henry Tuttle.

When he died in 1857 his estate amounted to \$300,000, one third of which was willed to Josiah, Jr. & the balance to be held in trust for the benefit of his children ^ descendants. The will was contested & was 30 years in the courts before it was settled. (Cont'd Page 3)



THE 4 SONS OF ROY A. WOOD (1889-1969)(9)(John 1, Samuel 2, Samuel 3, Ebenezer 4, Samuel 5, Lewis 6, Susannah Dunham Perry 7, Hannah Perry Wood 8) are shown her in this 1955 photo from Leon Wood, Findlay, OH. They are Paul, Herbert, Leon & Stuart Wood. While Leon didn't mention it, we'll wager that the occasion for the photo (& the reason why all four were so dressed up at the same time) was Leon's April 1955 wedding with Sally Curtis.

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JOSIAH DUNHAM (from Page 2) Thomas C. Simonds, author of the book, knew Josiah Dunham personally, & he wrote in it of him, "He was very strong in friendship, thoroughly democratic in his habits & instincts. I think he was the most unselfish man I ever knew."

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### Q U E R Y

P. C. Alger, 14 Lesley Circle, Derry, NH 03038, is searching for any information relating to the descendants of Jonathan Dunham & Johanna Alger (married in 1751 in Hebron, CT). They had 3 children: 1/ Jonathan (b. 1753, Hebron); 2/ Sarah (b. 1755; m. Simeon Wight in Hebron in 1773); & Nathan (b. 1763 Hebron). P. C. needs spouses' names, locations, & dates of death for any of the 3 children.

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Dunham Births in New York  
compiled by William G. Burke

	year	name	date	location	County	Cer. No.
517	1909	F	4/26	Grafton	Rensselaer	19013
518	1910	Florence	8/31	Grafton	Rensselaer	52739
519	1912	Archie D.	10/	Grafton	Rensselaer	61811
520	1914	Orpha J.	7/10	Grafton	Rensselaer	55122
521	1889	M	4/4	Hoosick Falls	Rensselaer	12445
522	1896	M	8/20	Hoosick Falls	Rensselaer	36148
523	1905	F	5/24	Petersburg	Rensselaer	22221
524	1895	Fred	10/17	Pittstown	Rensselaer	44386
525	1918	Clyde D.	8/12	Pittstown	Rensselaer	?
526	1920	Clare B.	4/11	Pittstown	Rensselaer	33913
527	1920	Ruth D.	3/14	Pittstown	Rensselaer	24980
528	1921	Eleanor E.	7/4	Pittstown	Rensselaer	61977
529	1922	Harold	11/8	Pittstown	Rensselaer	95379
530	1884	Bertha M.	2/16	Poestenkill	Rensselaer	3797
531	1891	M	1/14	Poestenkill	Rensselaer	1890
532	1897	F	4/9	Poestenkill	Rensselaer	17420
533	1900	F	6/27	Poestenkill	Rensselaer	24467
534	1902	Alice F.	7/12	Poestenkill	Rensselaer	26822
535	1885	Maude	6/22	Stephentown	Rensselaer	19710
536	1885	Heber	1/25	Troy	Rensselaer	2519
537	1891	M	4/14	Troy	Rensselaer	14944
538	1896	F	3/8	Troy	Rensselaer	10188
539	1899	Warren J.	4/22	Troy	Rensselaer	15100
540	1901	Worden E.	12/12	Troy	Rensselaer	46524
541	1903	Arden B.	7/1	Troy	Rensselaer	24529
542	1906	Gladys M.	8/22	Troy	Rensselaer	37916
543	1909	Kenneth F.	4/7	Troy	Rensselaer	64368
544	1910	Earl L.	10/23	Troy	Rensselaer	71335
545	1912	Charles	10/	Troy	Rensselaer	61748
546	1912	Milton A.	4/	Troy	Rensselaer	22707
547	1913	Mary E.	9/5	Troy	Rensselaer	55788
548	1915	Bessie L.	12/3	Troy	Rensselaer	103181
549	1915	Michael G.	7/23	Troy	Rensselaer	59662
550	1917	Julia	8/2	Troy	Rensselaer	71047
551	1917	Margaret I.	11/27	Troy	Rensselaer	97786
552	1920	Willis A.	2/4	Troy	Rensselaer	15266
553	1896	F	3/14	Pt. Richmond	Richmond	11087
554	1887	Bertie A.	11/30	Tottenville	Richmond	40485
555	1890	Mary V.	9/15	Tottenville	Richmond	34472
556	1893	Thomas E.	6/27	Clarkstown	Rockland	25071
557	1884	Susan H.	6/1	Clifton Park	Saratoga	12773
558	1916	Richard S.	7/23	Clifton Park	Saratoga	61030
559	1917	Elisabeth V.	12/30	Clifton Park	Saratoga	106723



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	year	name	date	location	County	Cer. No.
560	1914	Caroline F.	4/5	Corinth	Saratoga	30201
561	1915	Wallye A. Jr.	9/25	Corinth	Saratoga	78141
562	1917	M	9/2	Corinth	Saratoga	80858
563	1882	F	3/10	Greenfield	Saratoga	2659
564	1885	M	1/5	Greenfield	Saratoga	634
565	1889	M	1/19	Greenfield	Saratoga	2412
566	1890	M	9/15	Greenfield	Saratoga	34424
567	1895	F	6/23	Greenfield	Saratoga	26040
568	1912	Camilla	1/15	Greenfield	Saratoga	2853
569	1915	Olga C.	10/13	Greenfield	Saratoga	67009
570	1917	Harry M.	2/4	Greenfield	Saratoga	15997
571	1886	Chester V.	10/30	Half Moon	Saratoga	35487
572	1898	Earl C.	5/8	Jonesville	Saratoga	18165
573	1882	M	1/18	Sara. Spgs.	Saratoga	764
574	1890	(Ruhanah?) F. (F)	1/20	Saratoga Spgs.	Saratoga	2781
575	1913	Marian	8/30	Saratoga Springs	Saratoga	49707
576	1919	Robert M.	3/16	Saratoga Springs	Saratoga	22564
577	1903	Harry W>	5/17	Duanesburg	Schenectady	18320
578	1918	Harriel V.	1/29	Sch	Schenectady	?
579	1919	Stuart B.	4/20	Sch	Schenectady	31277
580	1921	Dorothy E.	4/19	Sch	Schenectady	34728
581	1922	Richard J.	5/25	Sch.	Schenectady	42376
582	1920	Norman	6/18	Cobleskill	Schoharie	52560
583	1895	M	6/19	Burdett	Schuyler	25481
584	1906	Gladys H.	12/27	Burdett	Schuyler	57431
585	1915	G??nd?l?n? l.	1/7	Burdett	Schuyler	6828
586	1917	Rosaine	1/17	Burdett	Schuyler	7437
587	1916	Dorothy L.	10/11	Catherine	Schuyler	88520
588	1884	M	5/16	Hector	Schuyler	11445
589	1885	M	8/24	Hector	Schuyler	23130
590	1887	M	9/5	Hector	Schuyler	29980
591	1887	M	11/25	Hector	Schuyler	39947
592	1889	Florence E.	8/14	Hector	Schuyler	30390
593	1890	Wallace	1/25	Hector	Schuyler	3291
594	1891	Mary	4/13	Hector	Schuyler	14680
595	1892	F	7/4	Hector	Schuyler	26692
596	1892	M	11/21	Hector	Schuyler	46712
597	1897	F	5/4	Hector	Schuyler	19750
598	1911	Margaret L.	8/30	Hector	Schuyler	54855
599	1913	Lewis L.	7/3	Hector	Schuyler	43385
600	1895	Margaret L.	9/28	Montour Falls	Schuyler	41537
601	1897	F	11/2	Montour Falls	Schuyler	48250
602	1898	Margaret L.	12/8	Montour Falls	Schuyler	48435

(TO BE CONTINUED)